



Arizona Department of Education
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Robert J. Franciosi
Deputy Associate Superintendent

DATE: March 12, 2010

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT. Deadlines/Timetable for 2010 Test Results, Achievement Profiles, and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Evaluations.**
(REF: RE10002-E)

This memo is to inform you of the timetable for the release of:

- Aggregate AIMS test scores;
- AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for schools;
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) evaluations for schools, districts, and charter holders;

and to advise you of other important dates for this year's accountability season, including deadlines for appeals and the application for alternative schools status.

Important changes regarding release of AYP evaluations, AZ LEARNS profiles, and AIMS results. Federal regulations require local education agencies (LEAs) to provide parents whose children attend schools in Title I improvement notice of public school choice options at least 14 days before the start of the school year (34 CFR § 200.37(b)(4)(iv)). In order to allow LEAs to meet this requirement, preliminary and final AYP determinations will not be subject to an embargo on public release. Aggregate AIMS results and preliminary and final AZ LEARNS determinations remain embargoed and are not to be shared with the public until public release by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). This information may be shared with staff only on a need-to-know basis. Test score results for individual students may be shared with the students, parents, teachers, and other staff in order to make educational decisions related to specific students.

Alternative school status. As of the date of this memo, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) will be accepting applications for alternative school status for the 2010 AZ LEARNS evaluations. The deadline for applications is given below. For a description of the criteria a school needs to meet to be deemed an alternative school, and the method used to calculate an achievement profile for alternative schools please read the AZ LEARNS Technical Manual available here: http://www.ade.state.az.us/azlearns/2009_AZLEARNS_Technical_Manual.pdf.

Schools wishing to apply for alternative school status must submit an application letter and supporting evidence to the ADE at achieve@azed.gov. Supporting evidence should consist of documentation such as mission statements, charters, and public information indicating that it is the schools sole mission to serve students listed in the definition. The report card for a school applying for alternative status under AZ LEARNS must state that it is an alternative school in the

“School Mission and Goals” section of the report card. Failure to do so may result in the school’s application being denied. Schools already granted alternative status need not reapply. Schools may apply to have their alternative status revoked.

Deadlines for the Submission of Information

Following are the deadlines for the 2010 appeals process for AZ LEARNS and AYP. All deadlines are at 4 p.m. MST.

Event	Opening Date	Closing Date
Data correction/statistical appeals for graduation and dropout rates. Please take the time to inspect your student information and ensure that program memberships, entry and exit dates, and withdrawal codes are correct and up to date. Corrections must be done through SAIS.	March 15, 2010	May 28, 2010
Data correction/statistical appeals for enrollment counts and program membership. This application provides rosters of students enrolled at the time of testing. Schools are responsible for testing students on these rosters. Please take the time to inspect the rosters and ensure that program memberships and entry and exit dates are correct and up to date. Corrections must be done through SAIS.	March 22, 2010	May 28, 2010
Submission of correct SAIS IDs for AIMS writing, reading, and mathematics. Please examine the SAIS ID correction application on the common logon and correct any missing or erroneous SAIS IDs. Students with incorrect SAIS IDs cannot be matched to enrollment and so will not be counted as tested.	June 21, 2010	June 30, 2010
Submission of application for AZ LEARNS alternative schools status. A school wishing to apply for alternative school status must submit an application letter and supporting evidence to the ADE by this date.	NA	April 30, 2010
AYP substantive appeals. A school/LEA wishing to appeal its AYP status based on adverse circumstances outside of its control must submit its appeal in during this time period.	June 21, 2010	June 30, 2010
AZ LEARNS substantive appeals. A school wishing to appeal its AZ LEARNS status based on adverse circumstances outside of its control must submit their appeal in during this time period.	June 21, 2010	June 30, 2010

Release Dates

The ADE will release information to schools, districts, and the public on the dates provided below.

Embargoed release to districts/schools		Public release	
AIMS, AIMS DPA, and Stanford 10 scores available via the ADE Common Logon.	June 21, 2010	AIMS, AIMS DPA, and Stanford 10 scores.	July 14, 2010
Preliminary AYP evaluations for all schools and districts.	June 21, 2010	Final AYP evaluations for all schools and districts.	July 21, 2010
Preliminary AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for all schools.	June 21, 2010	Final AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for all schools	July 21, 2010

I appreciate your attention to these upcoming calendar events as well as your ongoing cooperation. Research and Evaluation will be providing you more detailed information, directions for completing applications, and reminders regarding each of the events outlined in this memo as they approach. Please be sure to share this information with district and school staff as necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Research and Evaluation at 602-542-5151 or email achieve@azed.gov.